2019 Elevator Speech

- One in four people worldwide are dying from conditions related to thrombosis, also known as a blood clot.

- To raise awareness, World Thrombosis Day is celebrated (recognized) on 13 October and was created to raise awareness and elevate the global call to action on this deadly but preventable disease.

- World Thrombosis Day is a year-long campaign that raises awareness of the underappreciated condition of thrombosis, more commonly known as blood clots.

- Thrombosis is the formation of a blood clot inside either a vein or artery. Thrombosis can occur in the artery (arterial thrombosis) or in a vein (venous thrombosis). A clot that forms and moves in the circulation is called an embolism.

- Venous Thromboembolism is a condition that includes both deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. When both occur, it is considered a venous thromboembolism or VTE. DVT + PE = VTE

- Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) is a leading cause of death and disability worldwide.

- Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) is a common type of irregular heartbeat, also known as arrhythmia. With AFib a clot can form in the chamber of the heart and can travel to the brain. This can lead to a potentially devastating thromboembolic stroke.

- A World Thrombosis Day survey of nine countries found that public awareness of thrombosis was low overall (68%) and for VTE in particular is only about 50%. Far more people surveyed were aware of high blood pressure, breast cancer, prostate cancer and AIDS (90%, 85%, 82%, 87%, respectively)

- Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) causes more deaths each year in the US and Europe than breast cancer, HIV disease and motor vehicle crashes – combined.

- Cancer patients are at a higher risk than the general population for developing serious blood clots.

- Surgery is one of the risk factors of VTE. While a clot can form after any type of procedure, you are more likely to get one if you’ve had major surgery.

- Family history may increase the risk of VTE and genetic factors can contribute to VTE risk.

- Blood Clots can be prevented. Exercise your right as a patient and insist on a thrombosis risk assessment.

- To reduce your risk for thromboembolic stroke, ask your health professional if you are at risk and to be evaluated for AFib.